

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claim 23 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, claims 9 and 24 are pending.

Information Disclosure Statement

An Information Disclosure Statement was filed on July 27, 2006. Applicants respectfully request an initialed and signed Form PTO-1449 and an initialed and signed Attachment 1(g), indicating that the Examiner has considered the documents supplied in the Information Disclosure Statement.

Rejection of Claim 23 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action rejects claim 23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicants' admitted prior art in view of U.S. Patent 5,734,638 issued to Matsui. Claim 23 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 9 and 24

In item 5, the Office Action indicates that claims 9 and 24 are in condition for allowance.

Summary

Claims 9 and 24 are pending and under consideration. It is respectfully submitted that none of the references taken alone or in combination disclose the present claimed invention.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

Serial No. 10/683,675

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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